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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA

FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE

HELD AT

STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND ENGINEERING
WEST RALEIGH, N. C., AUGUST 9-10, 1921



B. F. SHELTON, President, - Speed, N. C.
J. C. BAIN, Sec'y-Treas., & B.A., Wade, N. C.



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BYNUM PRINTING CO., RALEIGH

LIST OF OFFICERS

B. F. Shelton, President	Speed, N. C.
Edie Cullipher, Vice President	Merry Hill, N. C.
J. C. Bain, Secretary-Treasurer and B. A.	Wade, N. C.
J. H. Evans, Chaplain	New Bern, N. C.
H. M. Cates, Lecturer	Graham, N. C.
H. H. Thompson, Steward	Hillsboro, N. C.
G. T. Lane, D. K.	Greensboro, N. C.
H. E. Thompson, Trustee B. A.	Stantonsburg, N. C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John A. Davis, Chairman	Pinetops, N. C.
P. C. Caldwell	Goldsboro, N. C.
W. L. Baker	Windsor, N. C.
T. J. Oldham	Mebane, N. C.
C. F. Cates	Mebane, N. C.

PROCEEDINGS

The thirty-fifth annual session of the Farmers State Alliance of North Carolina convened at A. and E. College, West Raleigh, N. C., on August 9 and 10, 1921, and was called to order by President B. F. Shelton promptly at 12 o'clock m. The Alliance was then opened in due form, after which the President declared this the thirty-fifth annual session of this body open and ready for business. President then appointed Brethren S. J. McLaurin, T. F. Cherry and O. F. White Committee on Credentials. Recess was then taken until 2 o'clock p. m. for dinner.

Afternoon Session

Promptly at 2 o'clock p. m. the President called the Alliance to order. The Committee on Credentials then reported all counties as recorded below entitled to seats as delegates, the same being adopted:

Alamance—H. M. Cates.
Bertie—O. F. White, J. D. Evans.
Cumberland—S. J. McLaurin, J. A. Beard.
Edgecombe—J. L. and T. F. Cherry.
Guilford—G. T. Lane.
Lenoir—
Johnson—B. E. Batton.
Orange—J. R. Sykes.
Wilson—J. A. McKeel.
Wayne—J. L. Sykes.
Warren—

The President made a splendid and far-reaching address but it was verbal, and he promised the Alliance to send a copy of address to Secretary to be printed in the Minutes but an attack of severe sickness has prevented him from doing so.

The President then appointed the following committees:
Committee on Constitution—E. Cullipher, J. C. Bain, T. F. Cherry.

Committee on Lecturing—J. R. Sykes, J. A. McKeel, J. D. Evans.

Committee on Resolutions—L. L. Creech, T. B. Parker, C. F. Cates, C. H. Poe.

Committee on Memorial—H. H. Thompson, H. M. Cates, J. H. Evans.

Special Committee—T. B. Parker, T. J. Oldham, T. F. Cherry.

Reports were then called for by President from the officers of the Alliance. Secretary-Treasurer and B. A. reported as follows:

Brother President and Brethren:

The past year has been one of the hardest to our farmers they have ever experienced. Our crops were generally good last year but prices obtained for them were away below cost of production. Very few farmers were fortunate enough to sell their crops for enough to pay their fertilizer bills for the year. Our order has well held "its own" numerically during the year, as my books show that fees and dues are near the same they were last year. I believe the time has come when we should put our lecturer to work in organizing and reorganizing Alliances all the time he can spare from his home duties; and I recommend that the State Alliance at this session (or its Executive Committee) make an appropriation sufficient for the needed lecture work. When we consider there has been practically no lecture work done by our order in over five years, we should congratulate ourselves that we are even a living farmers organization. The brethren of our order during the year, as far as I have been informed, have done all possible to aid the organized efforts of the peanut, cotton and tobacco growers in their efforts to form co-operative associations of the farmers, which is commendable of them. We have been teaching and preaching co-operative buying and selling the past thirty-five years; let the good work go on. My books and papers are in the hands of your Executive Committee, who will report to you their findings.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. BAIN,
Secretary-Treasurer and B. A.

Vice President E. Cullipher reported that he could not report only for his county (Bertie). That the Alliance was progressing nicely; they had added some new members and were waiting and hoping for a lecturer to visit their county.

Brother Cates, State Lecturer, reported he had not done any lecture work during the year; that he had been looking on and hoping success for the cotton, tobacco and peanut growers associations; that later we could offer the farmers an organization of co-operation in buying the needs of the home as well as what they produce.

An informal session of the Alliance was then engaged in of about one hour, during which time Brother T. B. Parker made a most excellent address on the question of "The Possibilities of North Carolina."

The Special Committee reported they had wired Brother W. L. Baker, one of our Executive Committee, sick in hospital, as follows:

Care Sarah Lee Hospital, Norfolk, Va.

The Farmers State Alliance send you greetings. We miss you at our meeting, sympathize with you in your afflictions, and wish you a speedy recovery.

T. B. PARKER,
For Committee.

Report of Executive Committee was received, read and adopted, and is as follows:

August 9, 1921.

We, the Executive Committee, submit the following financial statement of Secretary-Treasurer and B. A.; the financial report of H. E. Thompson, Trustee; also a financial statement of assets of N. C. F. S. Alliance, all hereunto attached and upon examination approved by your committee.

JOHN A. DAVIS, Chairman.
C. F. CATES, Acting Secretary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SECRETARY-TREASURER AND B. A.

Balance from August, 1920-----	\$ 594.48
Received interest on bond-----	20.00
Received check from H. E. Thompson-----	300.00
Received check from C. F. Cates, sales of sheets-----	43.75
Received check from J. H. Evans from auction sale---	47.77
Received check from Virginia Chemical Co.-----	209.47
Received profits from sales-----	10.56
Received fees and dues-----	75.80
	\$1,301.83

Expenses, itemized -----	\$ 293.77	
Salary, 1920-1921 -----	200.00	
		<u>493.77</u>
Balance -----		\$ 808.06

Stantonsburg, N. C., August 9, 1921.

To the Officers and Members of North Carolina Farmers State Alliance:

Brethren, I hand you herewith my report as Trustee of the Business Agency Fund for the year ending August 1, 1921, as follows:

1920.

Aug. 1. Balance on hand, including \$6,500 N. C. Bonds, 100 Liberty Bonds -----		\$ 12,808.15
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Aug. 11. Paid J. C. Bain, Sec.-Treas.---	\$ 300.00	
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Dec. 2. Received on Collins' note---		1,000.00
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1921.

Jan. 1. Interest on bonds-----		132.00
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June 2. L. B. Lloyd, sheriff, taxes---	140.70	
--	--------	--

June 23. Received on J. H. Murray's note -----		300.00
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July 1. Interest on bonds-----		132.00
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July 1. Interest on savings-----		162.41
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July 4. Received on J. E. King's note		1,086.84
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H. E. Thompson, salary to December

1, 1921 -----	100.00	
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Bonds -----	6,600.00	
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Clark note -----	1,400.00	
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Balance in bank-----	6,910.58	
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Expenses itemized and approved by Ex- ecutive Committee -----	170.12	
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	<u>\$ 15,621.40</u>	<u>\$ 15,621.40</u>
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Fraternally submitted,

H. E. THOMPSON, Trustee.

A letter was read from Attorney Graham requesting that a certain acre of land be released by quit-claim deed to Mr. W. J. Thompson by the Alliance, near Hillsboro, N. C. Carried that we will not release the acre of land but expect to give plenty of time for payment of the land. Alliance then adjourned for supper.

Evening Session—7:30 P. M.

Committee on Lecturing reported as follows:

We, your Committee on Lecturing, beg leave to recommend:

1. That we expend as much as \$500 in lecture work organizing and reorganizing our order.

2. If we find we are making good, we especially urge our Executive Committee to expend to that purpose as much as they see proper or beneficial.

J. D. EVANS,
J. A. McKEEL,
J. R. SYKES,
Committee.

Committee report adopted.

Committee on Memorial reported as follows, and the same was received and adopted by a rising vote:

We, your Committee, on Memorial, beg to submit the names of Brothers John Graham of Warren County and David McLaurin of Cumberland County. They have been called from our Alliance on earth to the great Alliance beyond that knows no death or separation. We commend their noble lives to our brotherhood and beg Him who is too wise and too good to be unkind to sanctify this bereavement to the good of the Alliance, their families and our country.

H. H. THOMPSON,
H. M. CATES,
J. H. EVANS,
Committee.

Short heartfelt addresses were made by H. M. Cates, T. B. Parker, C. F. Cates, T. J. Oldham, J. H. Evans and J. C. Bain on the lives and many virtues of our departed brethren.

The Alliance adjourned at 10 o'clock p. m. until tomorrow morning at 8:30 o'clock.

Morning Session

President called the Alliance to order at the appointed hour, August 10th.

The Committee on Constitution reported as follows:

We, your Committee on Constitution and By-Laws recommend that no change be made at this meeting.

T. F. CHERRY, for Committee.

The same was adopted by the Alliance.

It was moved and carried that Bertie County be loaned, from funds of the State Alliance, five hundred dollars, the same to be secured by mortgage on real estate for one year.

Committee on Resolutions reported, and the report was unanimously adopted and ordered published in the State papers.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Again reiterating the Declaration of Purposes of the Farmers Alliance, and more especially to endorse the motto, "In things essential, unity; and in all things, charity and to create a better understanding for sustaining civil officers in maintaining law and order; and to develop a better state mentally, morally, socially and financially," all of which we commend to our brethren and to all people as a means of making our people a happy and prosperous people.

Furthermore, recognizing the fact that the happiness and prosperity of our people depend on profitable agriculture and intelligent and contented rural citizenship, freed from the shackles of poverty and economic servitude and oppression, we introduce the following resolutions as a partial solution of the weighty problems now confronting our people:

Pledge Support to Co-operative Marketing

Whereas the Farmers' Alliance for a generation has been preaching the gospel of co-operative marketing, it largely sowed the seed which is now coming into glorious fruitage: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we rejoice in the rapid spread and development of the co-operative marketing idea and pledge our support to the movements now under way whereby North Carolina growers of cotton, tobacco, and peanuts will co-operatively sell and finance their own products, thereby making themselves masters of their own industry.

Use Federal Land Banks More

Resolved, That we urge our farmers to make greater use of the Federal Land Banks, and urge each sub-alliance to spread information about their value to our membership and to other farmers.

For Progress With Economy

Resolved, That the Farmers' Alliance is the friend of progress, and we rejoice in plans for giving North Carolina the good roads and good schools to which our people are entitled, but we also urge economical construction of roads with proper provision for keeping them up in every instance, and in order that proper funds for schools and roads may be provided, we call for the utmost economy in all branches of government—county and State.

For Better Financing and Marketing of Cotton

Whereas the cotton market has at last taken a turn for the better, and there seems to be prospect for a steady increase in prices provided the market is not glutted by too rapid delivery this fall: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we urge North Carolina cotton farmers and business men to co-operate as far as possible in preventing the ruin of prices through glutting, and to this end we especially urge the use of warehouse receipts as far as possible, and that plans be worked out for assembling these warehouse receipts and getting advances from War Finance Corporation and other sources for relieving the money situation in our State.

Taxation and World Peace

Whereas the weight of taxation as felt in a time like this makes us realize the need for adjusting it so as to throw the heaviest burden on those most able to bear it: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we hereby reiterate the traditional stand of the Farmers' Alliance for putting more of the tax burden on incomes and inheritances. We rejoice in the adoption of the constitutional amendment last November for taxing unearned incomes the same as incomes that are earned. We favor the extension of inheritance taxes; also seeing to it that large bodies of land held out of use are taxed on at least as near its real worth as the small farmer's cultivated land.

Resolved further, That we urge our Congressmen to work for retaining the luxury taxes and taxes on excess profits, thereby lightening the burdens of the general mass of people; and we commend President Harding for calling a disarmament conference for what it should mean for economy as well as the more important matter of the world's peace.

Against Tariff on Potash

Whereas there is pending before our nation's Congress a tariff bill recommending a heavy duty on potash, which if enacted into law would levy a tax of several millions of dollars annually on our farmers who must use potash fertilizers. This

tax is intended as a protection to the few potash plants in the Far West which are sufficiently protected by the high freight rates from the points of shipment to the Southern States where the bulk of potash is used: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Farmers' State Alliance enter its protest against this proposed tax and request the members of our national Congress who have the interests of agriculture at heart to oppose to their utmost this burdensome tax on imported potash.

Second. That we recommend the utilization of the Muscle Shoals nitrate plant, started during the late war as a necessary war measure, but which is now idle, for the purpose of the production of commercial nitrogen for agricultural and other economic purposes, and that we respectfully petition the members of the U. S. Congress to take such steps as they deem best to put this plant in operation at an early date on such terms and conditions as will make it an asset to the country instead of a liability as it now stands.

Better Farming Policies

Whereas agriculture is based on economical soil fertility and the application of intelligent methods in our farming operations: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we adopt practical rotation and diversification of crops applicable to our soils, needs and markets instead of blindly pursuing the so-called money-crop system—cotton and tobacco—at the expense of other crops needed for home consumption.

Resolved, Second, That we recommend an increased acreage in clover, vetch, etc., as winter cover crops and to supply our land with nitrogen, a crop necessity and badly needed in our soils, at much less expense than it can be purchased in commercial fertilizers.

Moved and carried that the rules be suspended and the Secretary cast the vote for all of the officers of the past year for the ensuing year, which duty was performed by the Secretary.

Moved and unanimously carried that we hereby request our Executive Committee to decide for us to hold our next State meeting a year hence here at the A. and E. College.

Brother Dr. Clarence Poe being present was invited by a vote of the Alliance to address them. President appointed Brethren Cates and Cherry to accompany him to rostrum and Brother Cates appropriately introduced him,

and he delivered an excellent address in which he especially emphasized co-operative marketing and the need for more thorough organization of the farmers.

Moved and carried that 100 of the first Minutes of the N. C. State Alliance be reprinted.

Thanks to College

Resolved, That our thanks are hereby tendered to the State College of Agriculture and Engineering for the generous courtesies extended us in convention with this very pleasant and profitable meeting of the State Alliance.

No further business appearing, the brethren sang "Blest Be the Tie" and were led in prayer by our worthy Chaplain, after which the Alliance closed in due form to meet again second Tuesday in August, 1922.

B. F. SHELTON, President.

J. C. BAIN, Secretary.

